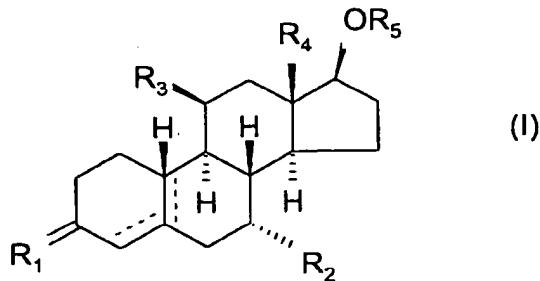


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In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the structural formula:



wherein

R₁ is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen, (C₁₋₆)alkyl, or (C₁₋₆)acyl;

R₂ is (C₂₋₃)alkyl, isopropyl, (C₂₋₃)1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C₂₋₃) 1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R₂ is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C₁₋₂)alkyl or halogen;

R₃ is hydrogen, (C₁₋₂)alkyl, or ethenyl;

R₄ is (C₁₋₂) alkyl;

R₅ is hydrogen, or (C₁₋₁₅)acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds;

~~with the proviso that the compound is not (7 α ,17 β) 7 ethyl 17 hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one (7 α ethyl 19 nortestosterone) or a carboxylic ester thereof, and is not (7 α ,17 β) 17 (acetyloxy) 7 propylestr-4-en-3-one (7 α propyl 19 nortestosterone acetate).~~

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

4. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is oxo, R₃ is hydrogen, and the dotted lines indicate a Δ⁴ double bond.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R² is ~~ethyl or~~ ethenyl.

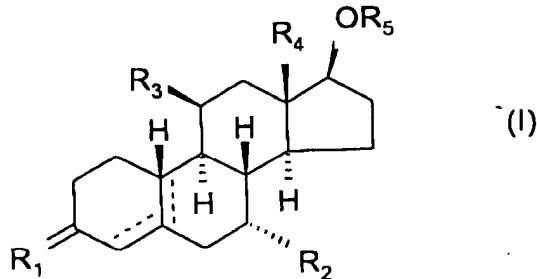
6. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of ~~(7α,17β)-7,13-Diethyl-17-hydroxy-4-en-3-one~~ and ~~(7α,17β)-7-Ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxy-4-en-3-one~~.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

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a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and
 a steroid compound, as a medicinally active agent,
 satisfying formula I



wherein

R_1 is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,
 (C_{1-6}) alkyl, or (C_{1-6}) acyl;
 R_2 is ~~(C_{2-3})~~ alkyl, isopropyl, (C_{2-3}) 1-alkenyl, isopropenyl,
 1,2-propadienyl, or (C_{2-3}) 1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted
 by halogen; or R_2 is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each
 optionally substituted by (C_{1-2}) alkyl or halogen;
 R_3 is hydrogen, (C_{1-2}) alkyl, or ethenyl;
 R_4 is (C_{1-2}) alkyl;
 R_5 is hydrogen, or (C_{1-15}) acyl; and
 the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

9. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according
 to claim 8, wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of

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ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, ~~propyl~~, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the group consisting of ~~(7 α ,17 β) 7 ethyl 17 hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,~~ ~~(7 α ,17 β) 7,13 diethyl 17 hydroxyest-4-en-3-one,~~ and ~~(7 α ,17 β) -7-ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygon-4-en-3-one.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 suitable for oral administration.

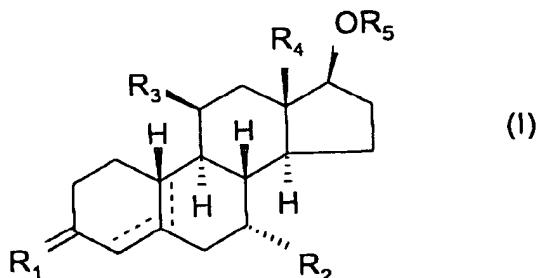
12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A kit for male contraception comprising a progestagen and an androgen, wherein the androgen is a compound according to claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of androgen insufficiency, comprising:

administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of an androgen, wherein the androgen is a steroid compound satisfying formula I

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wherein

R_1 is O, (H,H), (H,OR), NOR, with R being hydrogen,

(C_{1-6})alkyl, or (C_{1-6})acyl;

R_2 is (C_{2-3})alkyl, isopropyl, (C_{2-3})1-alkenyl, isopropenyl, 1,2-propadienyl, or (C_{2-3})1-alkynyl, each optionally substituted by halogen; or R_2 is cyclopropyl, or cyclopropenyl, each optionally substituted by (C_{1-2})alkyl or halogen;

R_3 is hydrogen, (C_{1-2})alkyl, or ethenyl;

R_4 is (C_{1-2}) alkyl;

R_5 is hydrogen, or (C_{1-15})acyl; and

the dotted lines indicate optional bonds.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 14, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of ethyl, ethenyl, ethynyl, propyl, 1-propenyl, 1-propynyl, 1,2-propadienyl, and cyclopropyl.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 15, wherein the steroid compound is selected from the

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group consisting of ~~(7 α ,17 β) 7-ethyl 17-hydroxyestr-4-en-3-one,~~
~~(7 α ,17 β) 7,13-diethyl 17-hydroxygen-4-en-3-one, and (7 α ,17 β)-7-~~
ethenyl-13-ethyl-17-hydroxygen-4-en-3-one.